

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Original) An axle driving system, comprising:

a housing;

a hydrostatic transmission disposed in said housing including an input means, a hydraulic pump driven by said input means, a hydraulic motor driven by pressurized oil from said hydraulic pump, an output means driven by said hydraulic motor, and a center section on which said hydraulic pump and said hydraulic motor are mounted and are fluidly connected with each other;

an axle; and

a driving gear train disposed in said housing for drivingly connecting said output means of said hydrostatic transmission and said axle;

wherein said center section is separably mounted in said housing, so that a first portion is provided adjacent to said axle and a second portion is provided away from said axle, a pump mounting surface for mounting said hydraulic pump is provided on said first portion, and a motor mounting surface for mounting said hydraulic motor is provided on said second portion.

21. (Original) An axle driving system according to claim 20, wherein said pump mounting surface and said motor mounting surface are perpendicular to each other, the rotational axis of said hydraulic pump disposed on said pump mounting surface is substantially vertical, the rotational axis of said hydraulic motor disposed on said motor mounting surface is substantially horizontal, and said first portion and said second

portion of said center section are coupled to each other so that the phantom plane which includes said motor mounting surface intersects said first portion.

22. (Original) An axle driving system according to claim 21, wherein the phantom plane which includes said motor mounting surface intersects a rotational axis of said hydraulic pump disposed on said pump mounting surface.

23. (Original) An axle driving system according to claim 21, wherein said center section further comprises:

a pair of first kidney-shaped ports open on said pump mounting surface for receiving oil supplied or discharged into or from said hydraulic pump;

a pair of second kidney-shaped ports open on said motor mounting surface for receiving oil supplied or discharged into or from said hydraulic motor; and

a pair of oil passages provided in said center section for fluidly connecting said first kidney-shaped ports and said second kidney shaped ports;

wherein said oil passages are positioned vertically in a thick portion of said center section.

Claims 24-35 (Cancelled).